

PATENT
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:
Zongchao ZHANG et al. : Docket: ACA 6316 P1US
Serial No.: 10/565,549 : Examiner: Deborah D. Carr
PCT Appln. No.: PCT/EP2004/008008 : Group Art Unit: 1621
Int. Filing Date: July 16, 2004 : Confirmation No.: 2100

For: METAL ION EXCHANGED SOLID MATERIALS:
AS CATALYSTS FOR THE ARYLATION AND THE
SKELETAL ISOMERIZATION OF FATTY ACIDS
AND ALKYL ESTERS THEREOF

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

DECLARATION OF PRIOR INVENTION IN THE
UNITED STATES UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.131

Sir:

1. This declaration is to establish the completion of the invention in the United States at a date prior to May 29, 2003, that is the effective date of the prior art patent application publication no. US 2003/0100780 by Zhang et al. for qualifying as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a), that was cited by the examiner.
2. To establish the date of completion of the invention of this application, an email correspondence dated March 26, 2003, which includes an attached document referred to as "an updated disclosure for the Arylation of oleic acid with aromatics," is attached hereto. The attached disclosure, titled, "Addition of aromatics to unsaturated fatty acids and fatty acid isomerization," lists examples of the invention that correspond to examples identified in the present application. Specifically, the examples set forth tests conducted in accordance with embodiments of the invention for processes for the arylation and isomerization of unsaturated linear fatty acids and/or alkyl esters to their

aryl branched counterparts which comprises arylating and isomerizing a feedstock in the presence of at least one acidic zeolite catalyst.

3. From these documents, it can be seen that the invention in this application was made at least by the date of March 26, 2003, which is prior to the publication date of patent application publication US 2003/0100780, namely May 29, 2003.

4. This Declaration is submitted with the first response after the first non-final Office Action.

5. As a person signing below, I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

6. A. Full name of first inventor Zongchao Zhang

Inventor's signature _____

Date _____ Citizenship _____

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B. Full name of second inventor Shuguang Zhang

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